



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region 2 Headquarters
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804-3101
406-542-5500

July 2, 2012

Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed you will find for your review the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposal to acquire the 50% mineral rights ("rights") held by the Pauly Family under 14,149 acres of FWP's 27,616 acres in Spotted Dog Wildlife Management Area (SDWMA). FWP owns the other 50% of the rights under the 14,149 acres in the SDWMA, which is located northeast of Deer Lodge in Powell County and was acquired in 2010. This potential rights purchase would help ensure no mineral exploration and/or extraction activities would occur under the majority of FWP's SDWMA in the future, thus meeting many of the objectives for which the property was originally purchased.

The EA may also be obtained by mail from Region 2 FWP, by phoning 406-542-5540, or by emailing shrose@mt.gov. The EA will also be posted for review and comment on FWP's Internet website <http://fwp.mt.gov> ("Public Notices," beginning no later than July 5).

Comments or questions should be directed to Sharon Rose at the address, phone or email above. Comments must be received by FWP no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 3, 2012.

As part of the decision making process under MEPA, I expect to issue the Decision Notice for this EA very soon after the end of the comment period. The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission has the final decision-making authority for FWP acquisition proposals, and the Commission will be asked to render its decision on this proposal at its August 31 meeting in Helena. Approval will also be necessary from the Montana Board of Land Commissioners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mack Long". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mack" and last name "Long" clearly distinguishable.

Mack Long
Regional Supervisor

ML/sr